



California Postsecondary Education Commission

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Commission To Present Important Findings Regarding California's Future Job Market And Economic Competitiveness

Reports Show Slowing College Graduation Rates Will Cost California's Businesses Revenues and Talent

SACRAMENTO — June 11, 2007 — On June 13, education community leaders will meet in the Governor's press conference room to present recent findings that show slowing college graduation rates are costing California's businesses, revenues and talent. The reports, which were recently approved by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC), demonstrate that California is not producing enough college graduates to fill the skilled-worker jobs in the state. CPEC will call on the Legislature to address the problem by proposing accountability policies for higher education.

Who: Olivia Singh, Chair, CPEC
Murray Haberman, Executive Director, CPEC
Richard Moore, Ph.D., Professor of Management, California State University Northridge

When: Wednesday, June 13, 2007
11:00 a.m.

Where: Room 1190
State Capitol

The full text of the reports can be found at:

<http://www.cpec.ca.gov/SecondPages/CommissionReports.asp>

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission's Findings Regarding California's Future Job Market and Economic Competitiveness Fact Sheet

California will spend about \$15 billion this year on higher education, far more than any other state, yet it is one of the few remaining states without mandated statewide accountability performance indicators for higher education. The California Postsecondary Education Commission measures and reports the State's progress in meeting public and student education needs, as part of its mission to provide statewide higher education planning and coordination.

Last week, the Commission adopted two accountability reports showing a dire need for California to produce more college graduates in order to remain competitive as a magnet for high paying jobs and to grow the State's economy. Highlights of the reports show:

- ***Between 1990 and 2005, California lost two-thirds of the lead it once had compared to the national college degree attainment level.***
- ***Between 1995 and 2000, California's employers had to import 224,000 bachelor and 141,000 postgraduate degree holders from other countries or states.***
- ***About 41% of California's 45-64 year olds have at least an associate level degree, compared to 38% of the 35-44 year olds, and only 36% of the 25-34 year olds.***

The Commission's research is consistent with reports done by researchers at the Public Policy and Higher Education Center for Studies in Higher Education, UC Berkeley, the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and most recently the Public Policy Institute of California, which show alarming educational trends that undermine the State's well being. The Commission, in consultation with higher education leaders, is in the process of developing policy options for lawmakers that would increase educational attainment in California's workforce.

The titles, summaries and links to the reports on CPEC's website follow:

(1) In "Educational Attainment of Population," the contribution of public higher education to raise educational attainment is evaluated and the challenge of aligning postsecondary education with evolving educational needs of the State's diverse population.

(<http://www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2007reports/07-11.pdf>); and

(2) In "Per Capita Income by Educational Attainment," the contribution of public higher education to raise per capita income in California is examined. The report also highlights how diversity in the State's population impacts the need for higher education and presents options for improving income earning using postsecondary education programs. (<http://www.cpec.ca.gov/completereports/2007reports/07-12.pdf>).

For additional information regarding these reports or any other produced by the Commission, please call (916) 445-1000.

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The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission's primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.